

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A control apparatus and method for an automatic transmission, by which a shift is executed by simultaneously controlling release and application of different friction engaging elements, are provided which i) control a clamping force of a friction engaging element to be released and a clamping force of a friction engaging element to be applied, ii) adjust an output torque of a prime mover for driving a vehicle, iii) detect a predetermined timing that is after the start of a torque phase during a shift of the automatic transmission and before the clamping force of the friction engaging element to be applied increases to the point at which torque input to the automatic transmission can be transmitted by only the friction engaging element to be applied, and iv) output a command to gradually reduce the clamping force of the friction engaging element to be released and a command to gradually increase the clamping force of the friction engaging element to be applied, in the torque phase. A command is output to reduce the torque of the prime mover in response to detection of the predetermined timing, and a command is output to make the clamping force of the friction engaging element to be released 0 in response to detection of the predetermined timing.